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SETH THAYER STEWART
EDITOR

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THE importance of holidays in connection with playgrounds has perhaps as yet not received sufficient attention. In the City of New York and throughout the State, a Children's Festival will be held on Saturday, October 2, 1909, in connection with the Hudson-Fulton Celebration.

The play season, especially for the summer, may properly be opened with our national holiday, the Fourth of July, and closed as a vacation season or term on Labor Day. Many friends of the children will be glad to see well-organized play-work receive a larger share of attention on these holidays, and Independence Day is a good day with which to begin the vacation season of Play.

The children expect much help from adults in the development of a system of playgrounds in all the cities throughout the United States, and the editor suggests that in connection with their desire for the co-operation of their friends, the children themselves should

call attention to the possibility of these holidays. If the manual training departments of public and private schools of the various cities furnished children with small national emblems provided through the friends of the children, in the first part of June, so that these flags could readily be worn, a patriotic service could be rendered by the children on the morning of Flag Day, June 14th, throughout the United States, if the children would present these small American flags, with their compliments, to their friends, with the request that they be worn on Flag Day. The children themselves should also wear this emblem, and the wearing of the Flag should be known as the request of the children, with a view to calling forth universal respect for the Flag. If the children educate the public towards patriotism, the public will be all the more disposed to see that the play instinct of the children is properly satisfied.

S.D. 18/3/11

DETROIT PLAYGROUNDS—

HISTORY OF PLAYGROUND BEGINNINGS IN DETROIT, MICHIGAN.

BY MRS. CLARA B. ARTHUR.

IN 1899 a talk on Vacation Schools and Playgrounds was given by the writer, before the Department of Philanthropy and Reform of the Twentieth Century Club of Detroit, the largest women's club in the city. A committee was appointed at this meeting to ask the Board of Education to conduct one playground during vacation of the ensuing summer. This the board declined to do. Appeals were then made to a few of the women's clubs, and to a number of public-spirited citizens, but the idea was too new, and no society or group of persons could then be induced to attempt the conduct of an initial playground.

In 1901 the newly organized Council of Women, through a committee of ten, requested of the Common Council permission to erect a pavilion and conduct a playground on the site of an abandoned reservoir, a large city block in extent, which had laid neglected and rubbish-strewn for more than twenty years. The request was made by the committee in person, whereupon one of the aldermen derisively exclaimed, "Vat you vimmens know 'bout boys' play—no." The other city fathers were evidently of the same mind, permission was refused; and so the committee sought and obtained permission of the School Board to use the basement, corridor, and fine yard of one of the largest schools of the city—the Russell. Herein the committee appealing to friends for the necessary funds, equipped and maintained a free supervised playground during July and August, every week day from 8 A. M. to 8 P. M.

The work was an unqualified success. For the first time in Detroit the people's school yard was used when its need was greatest. Sometimes as many as three hundred children were in the yard at one

time. The playground was equipped with sand piles, teeters, swings, basket ball courts, ropes, croquet sets, rocking horses, tugs of war, paving blocks, small toys, hammocks for babies, picture books, magazines, numerous small games, such as ring toss and quoits, and sewing and bookbinding materials.

Three supervisors, two men and one woman, were in constant attendance. At first the work was very arduous, but it was soon impressed upon the children that the rights of all must be observed, and that to enjoy themselves they must permit others to do so, too.

An encouraging feature of playground work is that volunteer workers are willing to assist the paid supervisors. The committee planned to have some member of the Council of Women present every day. This lady specialized. If she desired to make her day a musical one, she brought friends who sang, played the violin or other musical instruments, in the yard, or the piano in the spacious school corridor; or they taught a group of children songs, gathered the children together and practiced patriotic airs. Often hundreds of adults stood outside the huge yard to enjoy the music; particularly was this so in the early evening. Or if a lady so wished, she made her day a story-telling or reading-aloud day, a game-teaching day, or a sewing, or millinery, or book-mending day, accordingly bringing her helpers. The supervisors, of course, went on with their regular duties, they having at all times full authority in the yard.

No manual training outfit being available, and the fever for doing something infectious, a group of very little boys was discovered learning to make coarse red thread lace, their instructor a little girl of ten or thereabouts.

Many of the children knew nothing of play's delights, and teasing, interruptions, rude blows, and fights were at first frequent. Cigarettes and oaths

—DETROIT PLAYGROUNDS



LINCOLN SCHOOL—"OVER THE FENCE IS OUT."

DETROIT PLAYGROUNDS—

were tabooed, and a short expulsion from the yard of the child indulging in either soon purified the physical and moral atmosphere of the playground.

When school reopened the playground closed, and the committee devoted its energies to predisposing public sentiment to adopt the playground work into the school system of the city. The school board was asked to include in its estimate the sum of \$1,200 to equip and supervise three public playgrounds in its school yards. This the board did, adding to the item in its budget, "By request of women." Women are nobody's constituents, and the item failed to pass the Board of Estimates, although the Playground Committee worked unceasingly in its behalf, and rallied the Detroit Federation of Labor and other local bodies to its support. The estimators and many others considered that Detroit, with its lawns, fields, and unoccupied lots, together with beautiful Belle Isle Park, furnished ample play space for children's recreation and enjoyment, having the one-sided view that the benefits of play are almost wholly physical. A prominent city official asked the chairman of the Playground Committee if a work ground for children would not be of greater benefit to the city than would a playground—the thought conveyed being a striking proof of the rate we are making toward utilizing even the little children for commercial ends.

Again in the next summer, 1902, the committee opened and maintained the big Russell School playground, again being supplied with funds by friends. Once more the playgrounds illustrated the needs and the benefits of playgrounds in Detroit, and despite the opposition of janitors, the indifference of the civic authorities, the hostile press notices, and the constant cry that the school premises were being ruined by turbulent children, playground work

went serenely on, the neighbors and the police in that locality uniting in its praise. The committee treasures to-day the grateful letters of appreciation received from parents, children and shopkeepers of the neighborhood.

The winter of 1902 was one of strenuous activity for the committee, which sought to arouse and crystallize favorable public opinion. Members of the Board of Education advised the committee that it would be unwise to ask that body to insert an item for playgrounds in its new budget unless the request were accompanied by a petition from the citizens showing that public sentiment favored the playground idea. Accordingly, a petition was circulated by the committee and its friends, and the signatures of societies and taxpayers, representing 14,000 persons, were secured and presented to the school board, with a request that \$1,200 be asked for to conduct summer playgrounds in the school yards. This the board again did, but the failure of a bank in which the school board had its funds caused the board to hastily cut down its appropriations, and the playground item was among the first to go. However, at the next meeting of the board the chairman of the Playground Committee entreated for its restoration to the budget, and it was voted back into place.

Public meetings to advocate playgrounds were now held—one in the City Hall on invitation of Mayor Maybury, who from the first encouraged the committee and contributed to its funds; several in school auditoriums and churches. The clergy were asked to speak in their churches in its support; women's clubs, Sunday schools, societies of all kinds, were appealed to; numerous short articles were written for the city press and for their novelty printed therein. The playground idea was not editorially encouraged, some dailies referring to it as a sentimental fad.

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Constant pressure was brought to bear on civic officials, dodgers and circulars were distributed, the petition of 14,000 names was carried to the aldermen and the sixty-eight members of the Board of Estimates in their homes or offices, and again to each body when in committee or in general session.

That year the sum was allowed, and the Detroit Vacation Playgrounds were placed on the level of the public school, with benefits to be accepted by parent and child as part of the proper expenditures of civic life.

The committee presented to the school board the play material it possessed, and upon request submitted such suggestions for carrying on the work as experience had shown to be of value. The committee also offered to provide \$25 worth of sewing equipment and materials for the nucleus of vacation school features, stating that the children had evinced much interest in the rudimentary outfit the committee had been able to provide. This the school board committee declined, as play facility was all that was to be furnished. However, the school board the second summer went extensively into vacation school work in its playgrounds, and each year at closing of the grounds has given an inspiring exhibit of articles made by the children in vacation under the direction of skilled instructors.

The first year after assuming the work the school board effectively managed the original playground and two others, maintained where the needs were greatest. The second year \$2,000 was granted for the playgrounds, the third year \$12,000 was allowed and nine playgrounds opened. This year the school board is asking \$37,000, and as playgrounds are now so well established in public favor that nearly all the aldermen and estimators elected this year had "favors extension of playgrounds and public baths" in their election plat-

form, the amount will probably be allowed.

As soon as the playground had been incorporated into the civic life of Detroit an effort was made by the Playground Committee to include in the playground appropriation the sum of \$500 to install shower baths in the Russell School, and this was asked for by the school board, the committee agreeing to plead for its allowance. Another struggle ensued, the assertion by one of the estimators that there were 250 bath tubs in one of the new fashionable apartment houses, and by an alderman that "there was always the river," indicating the temper of the public officials on this point. The item was not allowed. The Playground Committee then raised \$300 from a few public-spirited citizens to install showers in the Russell School, but the Real Estate Committee of the School Board declined to receive it, feeling that the city itself should properly supply the funds for this innovation. However, Mr. Martindale, Superintendent of Schools, determined to demonstrate the shower bath idea, and from a reserve or repair fund he that summer took sufficient money (less than \$100) to place a temporary and crude shower in the Bishop School for summer playground use. Its popularity was instantaneous, and this fact, together with the persistent coming of the Playground Committee during the ensuing winter, induced the granting of \$1,000 for eight permanent showers at the Russell School. Since then the requests of the school board for money for shower baths has not been denied or cut down, and if the appropriations now asked for are granted, Detroit will have fifteen vacation playgrounds in its school yards, six of which will be new this year, and nine schools equipped with permanent, all-the-year showers, six of which will be new. These showers are in constant use, and on Saturdays are for adults only.

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A QUIET CORNER.

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Since the first year of School Board operation of the playground its appropriation has been but once curtailed, and as the extra sum needed was small and to be used chiefly to conduct inter-scholastic sport, the Playground Committee, always watching the work, raised the desired amount from two or three interested citizens.

In the midst of these activities the committee found time to attempt to have the city flood vacant lots for winter playgrounds. From one official to another the chairman went, to meet the constant reply that it was against the city by-laws to open a fire plug in winter for any purpose save to extinguish fire. The Fire Marshal was firm—even the Mayor could see no way to help out; the fire plugs were for fire and water, but not for frivolous ice. The vacant-lot-ice-playground germ, however, had been cultured, and the next season it attacked the aldermanic body, one of its members carrying through a resolution in the Council to set aside \$1,000 for the purpose of flooding vacant lots in certain sections of every ward in the city, this work to be done by the Fire Department. Since then winter playgrounds are a feature of civic life, and these playgrounds are exceedingly popular, though without supervision save by the police.

The Playground Committee has received inquiring letters from all parts of the State, and its chairman has addressed many meetings to consider the playground idea. The Protestant Orphan Asylum of Detroit, seeking its first steps direct from the committee, provided for its children in 1902 what may be said to be a really model playground.

Grand Rapids women, receiving their first interest and preliminary directions from Detroit, induced the school board there to establish playgrounds in the school system in 1902. The work there is well conducted and very popular.

This little history is prepared at the request of THE PLAYGROUND, and it is the hope of the writer that the success of the volunteer Playground Committee of Detroit will stimulate the formation of similar committees, where in cities or towns the children have as yet no place to play in peace and comfort. The committee still exists, and each year until 1908 its chairman appeared before the governing civic bodies to plead that the school board's request for playground appropriation be allowed. This is no longer necessary, as vacation playgrounds are firmly established and rapidly increasing. Last year a Playground Committee was formed in the Board of Commerce and this committee conducted a large, well-equipped playground for larger children in one of the congested parts of the city. It is the hope of the playground promoters that Detroit will shortly provide not only vacation playgrounds in its school yards, but all the year round recreation centers.

The committee has had always before it the vision of the coming happy city where the evolution of the child will be not in factory, store, or street, but in the home, the school, the playground, or recreation center, where social life can be enjoyed; where no police, street car, tired mother, or bigger child can suppress true abandon to that most powerful instinct, the passion for play—through which come all the vices or all the virtues.

And included in the playground can be the workground where manual training clasps hands with amusement. Character building, such as this method of child culture will make possible, will speedily show that corruption in governmental life and colossal injustices financially in industrial life will adjust themselves to meet the ideals inculcated in childhood to not the few fortunate children but to *all the children*.

DETROIT PLAYGROUNDS—

FROM ANNUAL REPORT OF THE
SUPERINTENDENT OF PUBLIC
SCHOOLS OF THE CITY OF DE-
TROIT FOR THE YEAR ENDING
JUNE, 1908.

PLAYGROUNDS AND VACATION SCHOOLS.

PLAYGROUNDS in Detroit were first opened through the efforts of different local organizations. The first playgrounds were experimental in their nature and were operated in order that the public might become interested in their objects and aims with the idea in view of having playgrounds established and supported through general taxation.

The first playground maintained on a public school ground was opened at the Russell School July 1, 1901, and continued until August 31, 1901, each day from eight o'clock in the morning to eight o'clock in the evening.

By private subscription the yard was equipped with swings, see-saws, sand pile and other means of occupying the children. An instructor was placed in charge and at once met success in interesting the children of the neighborhood.

The following year the Board of Education placed an item of \$1,200 for summer playgrounds in their estimates for the succeeding school year. The \$1,200 was cut out by the other estimating bodies. However, the following year, viz., 1903, the Board of Education again placed in the estimates an item of \$1,200 for support of playgrounds. The item was allowed by the Common Council and Board of Estimates.

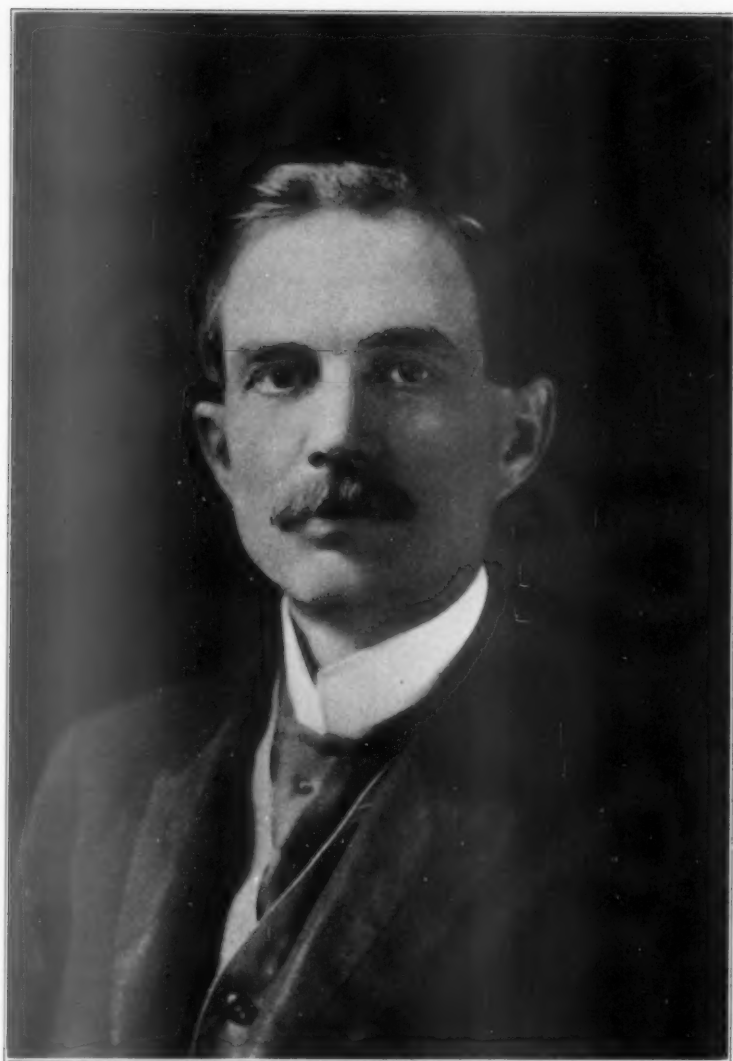
In June, 1903, the Superintendent of Schools outlined his plans for the summer playgrounds in a communication to the Board of Education as follows: The opening of two and possibly three playgrounds under proper supervision and equipped with the necessary apparatus; the appointment of Mr. Howard D. Minchin to take general direction of the

grounds and of all employees, under the general supervision of the Superintendent; the appointment of two young men as directors, and two young women as assistants at the two playgrounds to be placed in operation; the opening of the grounds for enrollment only on July 1, 2, and 3, and the regular opening for play on July 6, the grounds to be kept open week days from 9 o'clock in the morning until 5.30 o'clock in the afternoon for a period of six weeks; and establishing the maximum age of pupils to be enrolled at fourteen years. These plans and suggestions were adopted by the Board of Education, the apparatus and equipment used in connection with the playground at the Russell School during the previous two years were donated to and accepted by the Board, and the playgrounds henceforth were conducted by the Board of Education under the direction and supervision of the Superintendent of Schools.

Two playgrounds were opened on July 6, one at the Russell School, the other at the Bishop School, and a third one at the Cass School one week later when it was seen that there was sufficient money in the fund to equip and maintain it.

Apparatus and equipment consisting of trapezes, swinging rings, horizontal bars, parallel bars, teeters, swings, hammocks, jumping standards and boards, Indian clubs, dumb bells, wands, croquet sets, quoits, balls, dominoes, checkers, etc., were purchased and installed at each of the three playgrounds, and the work was inaugurated of attracting the boys and girls from the streets, and furnishing them opportunities and materials for amusement, recreation, athletic work, and play, all under wise and proper supervision and direction.

In 1904 the Board of Education requested and was granted an appropriation of \$2,000 for playground purposes. The number was increased from three



WALES C. MARTINDALE
SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS, DETROIT, MICH.

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to six, the Russell, the Bishop, the Houghton, the Cass, the Barstow and the Duffield schools being selected. At the same time the Superintendent of Schools called attention to the fact that none of these furnished facilities for certain lines of work and pleasure which would be beneficial to the children attending the playground centers, and suggested that the use of a part of the Water Works Park or some other river front property be secured to carry out this feature of the vacation school plan of work. Baths in connection with the playgrounds could thus have been secured, but the proposal was not acted upon at that time. Each new feature of playground activity has required time for its development, and it has taken much patience and persistency to obtain all that we have at present in the way of proper equipment and necessary facilities.

In 1905 the Board of Education submitted an estimate of \$2,500 for playground equipment in its annual budget, but the amount was cut and allowed at \$2,000 by the Common Council and Board of Estimates. Shortly after this, Mr. George A. Ducharme offered to lease to the Board of Education for playground purposes a plot of ground on Franklin Street between Chene Street and Joseph Campau Avenue. This offer was accepted by the Board at a nominal figure, and the playground to be opened thereon was officially designated the Ducharme Playgrounds. It was already equipped with the regular playground apparatus and was used during the summer of 1905, taking the place of the Duffield School ground which was discontinued. This is the only playground conducted by the Board of Education which is not a school playground, and by means of it a class of children has been reached which would probably not care to attend a play-

ground at some distance from their homes.

The six playgrounds in operation during the summer of 1905 were the Russell School, Bishop School, Barstow School, Cass School, Chaney School and the Ducharme Playgrounds, the two latter being new grounds. Several new features were added at this time, the most important being the addition of a small shower in the basement of the Bishop School to be used in connection with the playgrounds, the introduction of sewing and basketry, and the furnishing of materials for these subjects of instruction, the appointment of a director of athletics, and of several teachers of manual training to teach sloyd at various sloyd centers during the playground season, and the use of books from the Public Library by children attending the playgrounds under arrangements similar to those governing their distribution and use in the public schools. The term "playgrounds" was then enlarged to Summer Playgrounds and Vacation Schools, and this designation continues to the present time.

In the following year, 1906, the sum of \$3,109 was asked for by the Board of Education, \$700 for equipment and \$2,409 for salaries, for the playgrounds. The sum of \$350 for equipment and \$1,500 for salaries was allowed together with \$150 for janitors' services in connection with the playgrounds. Miss Katherine B. White was appointed Supervisor, and playgrounds were conducted at the same schools and grounds as in 1905.

A feature of the work during the incumbency of Miss White was the formation of a base-ball league among the boys and a basket-ball league among the girls of the several grounds. A regular schedule of games was arranged for each league, and a considerable portion of time was devoted to practice and preparation for

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"TEN MINUTES THE LIMIT."

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these contests. Enthusiasm was aroused by these championship games, and a large number of the playground patrons was always present to urge their playmates to greater efforts and more effective playing.

Chair caning was introduced in several of the playground classes, and many an old chair that had been condemned as useless was brought to the playground and made like new by the efforts of one of the boys in these classes. The sewing and basketry classes were patronized by a larger number of children, and the showing made at the exhibition of their work held at the close of the season was most gratifying. The exhibit included many articles of dress such as waists, aprons, dresses, underwear, etc., bags, doilies, handkerchiefs, and fancy work of various kinds, baskets of many sizes and shapes, prettily trimmed with ribbons or plain, some with covers, others without, table mats, picture frames, dolls' hats, etc., made of raffia, or raffia and reed, chairs and rockers recaned and repaired, all the products of the season's work at the playgrounds. Together with these were the articles made by the boys at the various sloyd centers, consisting of full rigged yachts ready for the water, canoe paddles, knife boxes, etc. Also Venetian iron work such as candle sticks, brackets, frames, etc. Visitors to the exhibit were surprised at the extent and variety of the work accomplished in the six weeks of the playground season, and expressed their approval and appreciation most cordially.

For the year 1907, the Board of Education requested an appropriation of \$4,968, of which \$3,168 was for salaries, \$1,000 for shower baths, and \$800 for equipment.

The sum of \$4,500 was allowed for all playground purposes. Mr. George E. Parker was appointed Supervisor of Ungraded Schools, Night Schools and

Summer Playgrounds, and has continued in this position up to the present time. During the playground season of 1907, the base-ball and basket-ball leagues were maintained as heretofore, the sewing, basketry and chair-caning classes were conducted as usual, and the work in yacht building and sloyd was carried on in eight centers in various parts of the city, four being open on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, and the other four on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays from 8.30 to 11.30 A. M. A new playground was opened at the Tappan School, and proved very successful in point of interest and attendance.

The opening of shower baths for both boys and girls at the Russell playground was the event of the playground season. Four showers with suitable dressing rooms and toilets were installed in each of the boys' and girls' basements. A large tank and heater was provided to heat the water to the proper temperature, and to enable all patrons to have a plentiful supply of both hot and cold water at all times during the day. A man was placed in charge of the boys' baths, and a young woman in charge of the girls' baths. The baths were opened on July 23, 1907, some two weeks after the regular playground season, but both boys and girls seemed anxious to make up for lost time and the bath attendants had all they could do right from the beginning. Eight or ten boys (or girls) were allowed to bathe at once, sometimes even more, and still during a goodly portion of the season, a long line of boys and another of girls could be seen daily awaiting their turn to take a shower bath. During the four weeks the baths were in operation a total of 3,633 baths were given, or an average of about 170 per day.

At the close of the season, a very successful and well attended track meet was

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held at Clark Park, the winners of the various events being awarded ribbons, and the successful contestants in the base-ball and basket-ball leagues being presented with suitable banners. The annual exhibition of work done at the playgrounds and sloyd centers was likewise a pronounced success.

For the season of 1908, an appropriation amounting to \$10,225 was asked for and allowed. This is remarkable as showing the increased interest and importance attached to the work of the playgrounds and vacation schools, for the total account allowed for the previous five years was less than \$12,000, an average of about \$2,400 per year.

The sum of \$2,425 was appropriated for purchasing and installing new steel equipment and apparatus to take the place of the old wooden equipment which was rapidly deteriorating and becoming useless. The sum of \$3,000 was granted for the installation of shower baths in the Chaney and Norvell schools; \$800 for the purchase of supplies and for repairs to equipment, and the balance \$4,000 for salaries.

The new steel apparatus to be installed included a set of eight swings and eight teeters at each playground, and the following pieces, in addition, at the Chaney and Russell playgrounds: one horizontal bar and ladder outfit, one combination outfit comprising swinging ladder, swinging rings, trapeze, climbing pole, climbing rope, horizontal bar, inclined ladder and sliding poles, one vaulting horse, one pair parallel bars, one climbing spar, and a set of basket-ball goals and back stops. At these two playgrounds the old equipment is to be removed entirely, and at the others the new apparatus is to be used in connection with some of the old equipment.

The playgrounds to be equipped besides the Chaney and Russell are designated as follows: Barstow, Cass, Clin-

ton, Houghton, Hubbard, Lincoln and Tappan, making nine in all.

Provision has been made for baths at the Norvell school with the idea that when additional ground adjoining the school site is secured, a playground will be established there for the benefit of that thickly settled neighborhood.

The gradual extension of playground privileges and advantages to sections of the city that by reason of congested conditions stand most in need of them is in line with the policy of the Board of Education, and is proving a satisfactory solution of the problem of providing facilities for healthful recreation and play for the great masses of children who would otherwise have no such opportunities.

As already intimated, the development of certain features of the playgrounds and vacation schools which are now considered indispensable requires much perseverance. Some ten years ago the Superintendent of Schools agitated a bath and swimming pool on the Orleans reservoir site and a plunge and shower baths at the Bishop School. After years of agitation through various channels a bath house has recently been established on the Orleans reservoir site. The new Bishop School will contain a swimming pool and shower baths for both sexes.

The estimating bodies now take these so-called innovations as something tried and proven and do not hesitate in allowing appropriations for their establishment.

The great needs at the present time are recreation centers along the river front. Water Works Park would be a most delightful and convenient place for a neighborhood center. Bathing facilities could be arranged at a slight cost right at the margin of the river. Like facilities are offered at the junction of the Western Grand Boulevard and the river. In time the children and the great mass of the people will "come into their

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"WAITING THEIR TURN."

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own" in the matter of facilities for recreation. No city in the country offers such facilities as our own City of the Straits for out-door recreation and sport. May the present movement gain strength and headway with succeeding years.

The public have been slow to realize that adequate facilities for recreation were as necessary to the peace and to the higher development of society as the opportunity to earn a living wage. However, shorter work hours for the employed and the necessity for providing means of out-door physical recreation for school children have added an impetus to the movement for the establishment of recreation centers which has developed a tremendously earnest desire on the part of the people for an opportunity to assist in a realization of the hopes and joys which sane recreation offers.

STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR 1907.

Number in attendance in sewing classes, basketry classes, chair-caning classes, etc.:

Barstow	6,420	1,055	310	...
Bishop	8,985	885	430	...
Cass	2,618	302	148	...
Chaney	7,250	385	260	131
Ducharme ..	4,296	445	377	46
Russell	8,444	341	140	...
Tappan	4,824	449	422	...

Totals ..	42,837	3,832	2,087	177
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Attendance at Sloyd Centers:

Campau	382
Capron	299
Craft	335
Duffield	453
Franklin	272
Gillies	279
Scripps	483
Tilden	512

Totals	3,015
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Number of shower baths taken at Russell playground July 22, to August 17, 1907, a period of four weeks, 3,633.

W. C. MARTINDALE,
Superintendent of Schools.

PLAYGROUNDS AND TRADE UNIONS.

Dr. Luther H. Gulick, President Playground Association of America, New York City, N. Y.:

Dear Dr. Gulick: At your request I have investigated the reported resolutions of the labor unions in regard to playgrounds. They did not pass a formal resolution, but stated that they would be glad to do so at our request. I quote from the *Union Label League Bulletin*:

"At a meeting of the Trades and Labor Assembly of December 13, 1908, the Committee on Public Institutions was authorized to act on behalf of the Assembly in promoting the objects of the Public Playground Association."

I am told that the Assembly represents nearly twenty-five thousand voters.

Very truly yours,

(Signed) GRACE M. KASSLER,
Secretary Denver Playground Assoc'n.

The A. S. Barnes Co. has published recently, "Folk Dances and Games," by Caroline Crawford of the Teachers College, New York City. The book contains the words and music of the principal folk dances and games. There is a very interesting description of the "Meaning of the Dance," and the front-piece is a dainty picture of the game "I Sent a Letter to My Love." Each dance and game is explained, and a diagram is given showing the proper position of the dancers.

The book should prove interesting to all playground workers.

THIRD ANNUAL CONGRESS—

THE Editor wishes again to call attention to the Third Play Congress of the Playground Association of America which will be held in Pittsburgh, May 10-14. Exceedingly interesting programs have been arranged, and some very novel features, no doubt, will not only attract much attention, but develop considerable pleasure and interest in the meetings of the Congress. The next number of the PLAYGROUND will be devoted especially to presenting the plans for this Third Congress. It is hoped that the number will be out in sufficient time to reach all on or before the first of May.

The plans for the Third Annual Congress of the Playground Association are rapidly taking on definite shape. Already an extra day, May 10, has been added in order to make room for the formal sessions and discussions and yet leave time enough to the hospitable Pittsburgh Playground Association for all the profitable and delightful social features, playground exhibitions, visits to parks and folk-song festivals which they have asked to be allowed to provide for the visiting members.

The program has been laid out, at least as far as allotment of time is concerned. Already a number of prominent speakers have been obtained for the committee discussions and for the evening sessions. The program provides for sessions only in the mornings and evenings. The afternoons are to be devoted exclusively to playground exhibitions and visiting points of interest in Pittsburgh and vicinity. The Congress will be opened by an evening reception tendered by the local association. The reports of the several committees will be discussed in one hour sessions on the mornings of May 11, 12 and 13. The evening sessions will be held on May 11 and 13. The evening of May 12 will be devoted to a trip through a great steel mill. The evening of May 14 will

be given over to a folk-song festival. The Board of Directors will meet at luncheon on Tuesday at one o'clock; the Council Meeting will take place Friday morning, a second Directors' Meeting being held immediately afterward. A general luncheon for members will be held at one of the hotels at one o'clock on Thursday.

The committee reports are already practically completed and promise to suggest many valuable improvements and discoveries and to advance ideas which will make the morning discussions very interesting and profitable. In order that all of the reports may be discussed at the general morning sessions without conflict in hours between committees, the time limit of five minutes for those who open discussions and a shorter time for other speakers is to be strictly adhered to by the presiding officers. In this way it is believed that much can be accomplished without having the sessions occupy so much time that every one is wearied. The plan of devoting the afternoons wholly to trips and exhibitions, and the fact that the program for the evening sessions is to be limited to two or three brilliant speakers who have an important message and that interesting musical and exhibition features are also to be introduced, will, it is believed, bring everyone to each session bright and rested. The idea of the program committee is to have people feel that on the intellectual side the program was just long enough—had just enough features.

Any spare time can be well spent in Pittsburgh with its many parks, schools, richly endowed institutions, settlements, baths, recreation parks and playgrounds. The work of the Pittsburgh Playground Association alone is well worth a week of careful study, for this association has shown how it is possible for a private body to be the playground agency of the municipality and conduct an extensive system of baths and playgrounds to the satisfaction of every one.

—WHAT PLAYGROUNDS COST

WHAT PLAYGROUNDS COST.

NO question is more frequently asked than this one: What does a playground cost? As it is usually asked it cannot be answered. Aside from the purchase, the grading and the fencing of the land—which is always a local matter—the question comes as to equipment. The assumption is that the equipment is a matter of first importance. This is not true.

The matter of first importance is the character and equipment of the play leader who is to direct the work. A barren field having a flat surface, in which there is a play leader who knows just the games that the children want to play, who knows the dances that the girls love, will do splendid work; while a playground equipped with the most expensive apparatus, without skilled leadership, may become a source of evil in the community.

The expense of equipping a playground may vary from the expense of having two or three loads of sand put into it for the play of the little children, the expense of putting in a few simple seesaws and swings, to an equipment having wading pools, gymnasiums—both indoors and out—running track, gymnastic apparatus, merry-go-rounds, etc., costing thousands of dollars. There is no direct relation between expense and utility. The best way to do this is to secure the ground, have it graded and fenced and secure the right leader, and then gradually put in the equipment that local conditions indicate as being most useful.

The salary of the play leader is the one item that must be provided for.

NEWARK PLAYGROUND CLUBS.

The Daughters of Molly Pitcher is the name of a new patriotic organization formed by the girls of Newark's city playgrounds.

This society came into being through

the demands of the girls themselves for a patriotic society. Some of the boys of the Meyer S. Hood Recreation Center organized a patriotic club which they named The Sons of Daniel Boone. The members of this club, when they held meetings, appeared in home-made costumes representing those of scouts, cowboys and Indians. Reports spread around the playgrounds of the good times The Sons of Daniel Boone were having, and the girls insisted upon a patriotic organization also. They appealed to Commissioner McKiernan and Miss Hughes, and the organization of The Daughters of Molly Pitcher resulted.

The chief object of the Molly Pitcher club is to develop the spirit of patriotism among the young people and to encourage the study of American history. The educational plan is working out satisfactorily among the girls of the Meyer S. Hood Recreation Center, where the first branch of the organization has been formed. It is proposed to establish other branches of the society on the different playgrounds. When the ritual and the constitution and by-laws are completed, and if it is found that the organization serves a good purpose, the project of making The Daughters of Molly Pitcher a national organization will be submitted to some of the patriotic organizations with a view of having it adopted by them and so spread among the girls throughout the United States.

One of the features of the Daughters of Molly Pitcher is the naming of the officers after historic American women. The president of the club is known as Molly Pitcher, the vice-president as Martha Washington, the secretary as Margaret Morris, the treasurer as Pocahontas and the sergeant-at-arms as Betsy Ross. The girls who fill these officers attire themselves at the club meetings in costumes fashioned after

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those worn by the women they impersonate. These costumes give a picturesque aspect to the club meetings. Some of the girls who do not hold office are eager to appear in historic costume, and a movement has been started to have certain committees named, the members of which will have the privilege of appearing in the costumes of early settlers and colonial dames.

The girls make their own dresses and hold frequent consultations as to the proper cut and material for the costumes. This necessitates reading early American history and calls for frequent visits to the Newark library to consult historic books. When the Daughters of Molly Pitcher hold their meetings they have a social session, in which there are patriotic songs, recitations and the reading of essays. The society joined with The Sons of Daniel Boone in the celebration of Lincoln's Birthday, held in the Meyer S. Hood Recreation Center on the afternoon of February 12.

PLAYGROUND "CITY."

They have been holding civil service examinations on the Prince Street playground, Newark, N. J., for the police and fire departments of the playground city government. A new administration was voted into office on the first of the year, and on the playground, as in the State government, they have a "Ripper Act," by which all office-holders' terms expire with that of the administration. Among the boys on the playground there are many ambitious to serve as playground policemen and to be members of the juvenile fire department.

The questions asked at the examination for policemen were as follows:

1. Why do you wish to become a policeman?
2. What are the duties of a playground policeman as you understand them?

3. How many police precincts are there in the city of Newark?

4. How is the city police department governed?

5. How is the city of Newark governed?

6. How is the playground city governed?

7. Name six of the principal city officials?

8. Give the names of as many of the playground city officials as you know?

9. What would you do if you found anyone on the playground breaking any of the rules?

10. What do you like best about your playground?

EDUCATING THE PUBLIC.

AS a means of furthering the cause of securing a municipal grant for the purchase of a parcel of ground for a playground, a unique method was resorted to by a committee of five citizens in a town not far from New York City.

The committee had worked the project up to that stage where the public needed to be educated, for it was felt that with a true knowledge of what a playground was, why it was needed and what it could do, the City Fathers (the Aldermen), by the force of this knowledge on the part of the public, would "simply have to" grant the paltry sum of \$30,000 or so for the purchase of the land.

The success of the attempt at educating was wholly dependent on the aid that the Playground Association of America alone could give. The scheme in brief was as follows: Through the medium of the local press, two articles on the general subject of Playgrounds were to be published each week for an indefinite number of weeks. The editors, or at least a majority of them, agreed to furnish us the space if we furnished the "copy." Our "copy" consisted in literature, which we purloined

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from the headquarters of the Playground Association—while they were looking! Each member of our committee was given an equal amount of this literature, and each one of us was to prepare, in turn, two articles to be handed in to the papers on the Tuesday and the Friday of the week assigned to him. The chairman of the committee was to prepare the first two articles; for the first, he boiled down to a newspaper column the famous article of Joseph Lee on Playgrounds. For his second article he took the annual report of a playground commission of a large eastern city and picked out the salient points in it that bore directly on his own home situation.

It can be seen that all the articles partook of the nature of expert opinion on the subject; for we had Judge Lindsay and Governor Hughes and others, besides Joseph Lee, from whom we quoted. At the beginning of each article, twice every week, there was affixed the saying that "The boy without a playground is father to the man without a job." This gave a continuity to the articles which was effective.

The plan is highly recommended to others engaged in the playground movement, who have reached the stage where things need to be accelerated. We vouch for the cordial co-operation of the Playground Association of America.

R. G.

PLAYGROUNDS IN MASSACHUSETTS.

Official Action Toward Compliance with the New State Law.—Endorsement by Mayors.—Voting in Small Towns.

BY EVERETT B. MERO.

SINCE the landslide for public playgrounds in Massachusetts there is a rush to join the crowd. A city without up-to-date playgrounds the coming summer will feel lonesome. Playgrounds are the latest municipal

style. Nearly all of the twenty-three cities that voted to adopt the new law are investigating the matter through special committees appointed by the city councils or through existing bodies, such as park boards. One of the two cities that voted "no" is likely to provide a recreation center in some form, the Civic Association being earnest in showing the people that the voters were in error who opposed the new act.

The towns are joining the crowd, also, even some that do not come within the provisions of the law. The law requires all cities and the towns of 10,000 population to take action, but several towns of 3,000 to 8,000 people did so at town meetings March 1st, or will do so later this spring.

The cities having adopted the law, the next step is to find ways and means of carrying out its provisions. Some of the cities are only now beginning to realize what they have done; to get a true understanding of the important step they have taken. Several mayors spoke definitely of the playground movement in their inaugural messages.

Just how the cities will comply with this compulsory law is an open question at present. In Springfield, Salem and other cities where efficient playgrounds have been established and maintained wholly or in part through private effort, it becomes largely a matter of development and the method the city will adopt to carry out what has been so well started.

In other cities, where there have been no playgrounds, or practically none in the modern interpretation of the word, much fundamental work must be done. One of the generally favored methods to accomplish this seems to be to place the responsibility on the local park commission. In some cities a special committee will work in conjunction with the park commission or school board.

So far as evidence appears now, the

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prevailing official sentiment as expressed by the mayors is toward the park department. This would seem to indicate that very few city officials are inclined to group playgrounds with educational or school facilities, but rather regard them as places for recreation and games and natural adjuncts of public parks. Partly for this reason the matter of adequate supervision may be a somewhat difficult one to work out, except where experience has taught better as in the two cities mentioned.

In most, if not all, cities, where up-to-date playgrounds have been maintained, the absolute necessity for the right sort of supervision by competent persons has been conclusively demonstrated. A playground will not run itself if anything like satisfactory results are expected.

The Massachusetts Civic League has appointed a State Playground Committee of some thirty members, including one from each of the cities that voted to accept the playground act, with a few additional members of the league. Active work is being done in the towns that have not yet voted on the question, and general watch is being kept of the conditions in the cities that did vote in December. The Playground Association of America has a special representative in this state who is co-operating with the Civic League, and helping as may be found feasible by press educational propaganda and by supplying information through correspondence.

Among the Massachusetts mayors to grasp intelligently the need for practical attention to the physical welfare of the present and coming generations is Mayor John F. Hurley, of Salem. In his inaugural message he spoke as follows:

"Through the tireless efforts of Mr. Christian Lantz, of the Young Men's Christian Association, under whose broad leadership many good things have

come to pass, Salem has already taken its first official step toward maintenance of public playgrounds. The helpful influence in every direction on the lives of the boys and girls taking part in the benefits of well supervised out-door recreation, does not need to be argued. The city council should secure during the succeeding years, as opportunity offers, permanent places for this work.

"We must be careful always in increasing the size of the annual budget, but that this work of physical development may be real economy and reform is borne out by the views of officials in other places."

In Springfield Mayor William E. Sanderson addressed the City Council on this subject as follows:

"Springfield has taken a new departure, and, in my opinion, in the right direction. At the city election held December 8, 1908, the voters accepted what is familiarly known as 'The Playground Act,' by a vote of 10,342 yeas and 1,006 nays, an emphatic expression of the citizens' desire to have places of recreation for the children.

"Before this was done, however, Mr. Nathan D. Bill, who needs no introduction to the people of this community, had presented to the people of this city a magnificent spot for a playground at the South End, which is most appropriately called 'The Emerson Wight Playground.' The thought that prompted such a generous gift emanated from a generous heart, and coming generations will fondly cherish the spot and remember the joys which it brings to all who participate in its healthful, invigorating pleasures. The community is again most deeply indebted to Mr. Bill.

"Now that the playground act has been accepted, it will be necessary to fit up two or three playgrounds to comply with its provisions, a fact to which I would call your especial attention."

—MASSACHUSETTS PLAYGROUNDS

Mayor Daniel W. Bond, of Woburn, in his address, emphasized a point that has been urged by promoters of the playground movement, namely: That it is municipal wisdom to get land early and a long time in advance of its probable use.

"I believe this (the playground movement) is a move in the right direction, and under proper supervision, it will be of great advantage to our children, and what is for their advantage is certainly for the benefit of the community as a whole."

Worcester's Mayor, James Logan, has been for a long time a consistent friend of the playground movement, and has endeavored in various personal and official ways to stimulate it in his own city. In his inaugural address there is indication of a real knowledge of the subject. He says, under the sub-heading of "Parks and Playgrounds":

"I believe that there is no investment which can be made by the city which will do more for the physical upbuilding of the children than playgrounds."

Mayor M. Frederick O'Connell, of Fitchburg, is another city official to whom the playground movement does not come as a surprise. In his inaugural message he reiterates the previous recommendation that steps be taken to provide "public playground advantages" for the "numerous youth" of the densely settled sections where "the future men and women of the city are to be found in great numbers. * * *" He states further:

"Parks and playgrounds are now universally regarded as essential to the physical and moral health of every growing community and are now considered a necessary part of the equipment of a modern city. Our park system is incomplete, and as our city is made up largely of working people who depend mainly upon the parks for recreation, we should seriously consider their

needs. A good beginning has been made.

"It is a good investment for a city to provide these public playgrounds. It makes a city more desirable as a place of residence, evidence of which is furnished by Western real estate promoters who are beginning to include them in their plans. Besides they have been found to contribute towards building the boy into the moral and physical stature of a man, for play is a necessity to a child, not a mere luxury; it is nature's method of making a man."

Under the head, "Parks and Public Playgrounds," Mayor William F. Shea, of Quincy, says:

"I am a firm believer in parks and playgrounds, and think as fast as practicable suitable playgrounds for the children should be provided in each ward of the city. I also believe that so far as practicable the public playgrounds should be flooded in winter time for skating, and provision be made for that purpose."

The Mayor of Lynn, James E. Rich, believes that "One of the greatest assets of a municipality is happiness among its people, and if we assist the young to obtain this by providing them with playgrounds furnished with suitable apparatus, we build for the future." He points out in his message where playgrounds can be advantageously located and where equipment can be placed for good results.

"Early recognizing that playgrounds were needed, Lynn was among the first cities of the Commonwealth to secure locations for this purpose, and considerable has been done in the direction of properly preparing these places.

"Proper supervision must be given these pleasure resorts. To my mind, the best results cannot be obtained by simply establishing resorts of this nature and then permitting the children to look out for themselves.

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"While it is an excellent thing to consider pleasure resorts for the young, the adults should not be forgotten. It should be our object to do all in our power to provide means for the people to enjoy themselves among the works of nature, and no community is so blessed with opportunity as Lynn."

Mayor Nathan B. Avery, of Holyoke, expresses himself as follows:

"The people of Holyoke emphatically voted in favor of playgrounds, and it seems that the great work of the park board this year is to provide as wisely and economically as possible so that playgrounds can be established as a part of the educational and social development of this city. I believe that when the institution of playgrounds is properly used and worked out, few things which the city does will be of more immediate benefit to its people, and I think also that this can be done without any great burden to taxpayers."

Mayor Coughlin said to the Fall River City Council in his inaugural address, that six playgrounds will be needed to comply with the law. The city having three parks and one site, two more sites will be needed. These, the mayor says, should be located in the eastern and southeastern sections of the city.

Mayor John S. Kent, of Brockton, said:

"I doubt if the city can make a better investment of its funds than in providing playgrounds for the children, and I am sure the returns in healthy, happy and honest boys and girls and a higher type of citizenship will amply compensate for the expense.

"The usefulness of such breathing spaces and opportunities for recreation and physical improvement in our city is well recognized. These playgrounds are healthful and conducive to a great deal of good. They favor out-door exercise; they keep the youth away from

the dangers of our streets, the unwholesome surroundings of crowded yards, and bring commingling about of the various elements of our population which tends to harmony and good order."

HOW THE TOWNS VOTED.

Fifteen towns of 10,000 population coming within the provisions of the Massachusetts Playground Act have held their annual elections. Thirteen of these towns took action on the playground question and all accepted it. The towns and the vote follow:

<i>Town.</i>	<i>Vote.</i>	
	<i>Yes.</i>	<i>No.</i>
Attleboro	9,006	328
Clinton	1,869	292
Gardner	1,008	357
Hyde Park	1,299	326
Leominster	988	600
Milford	1,053	340
Framingham	1,364	338
Peabody	1,643	453
Wakefield	850	281
Watertown	1,020	355
Westfield	1,650	196
Weymouth.	713	320

Plymouth accepted.

The total "yes" vote was 14,357; "no" 4,186.

Up to March 10th, twenty-six Massachusetts cities and thirteen Massachusetts towns have voted on the Playground Act, passed by the 1908 Legislature. Twenty-four cities and thirteen towns have accepted the provisions of the Act, which provides for the establishment of public playgrounds under municipal control. The total approximate vote to date is 145,000 yes, 32,000 no.

The June number of THE PLAYGROUND will be devoted to the work in Springfield, Mass., one of the cities that accepted the "Playground Act."

—PLAYGROUND HAPPENINGS

PLAYGROUND HAPPENINGS.

By LEE F. HANMER, FIELD SECRETARY.

A playground association was formed in Somerville, Mass., on February 1st. Its first aim is the promotion of playground work, and later, if practicable, other civic improvements will be considered.

The Municipal Improvement League of Watertown, N. Y., has appointed a public recreation committee to look into the matter of playgrounds for the children of the city.

A patriotic entertainment was given for the benefit of the Playground Association of Memphis, Tenn., on February 20. Many prominent artists were on the program.

Henry Loomis, one of the oldest citizens of Geneva, N. Y., has donated a tract of fifteen acres of land for a public park and playground.

A "Tag Day" for the benefit of the children's playground at George Washington Park, Alexandria, Va., was held on February 22d. The George Washington Birthday Association was in charge of the affair.

It is reported that the Board of Education, of Newark, N. J., has just purchased, at an expense of \$29,500, a tract of nine and one-half acres for an athletic field and playground.

Kansas City, Mo., is building its second public bath. Work was started on it on February 18th. The building will be 60x24 feet, and will furnish facilities for 800 baths a day.

A playground association was formed in Fort Wayne, Ind., on February 15th.

Representatives of labor organizations, ministerial societies, medical and humane associations, the civic improvement committees of the Women's League, and the City Council attended the meeting.

At the February meeting of the City Council of Alameda, Cal., the Park and Playground Commission was granted \$3,214.30 for playground apparatus.

An appropriation of \$165,000 has just been made by the City of Boston for further extension of its playgrounds.

The Oak Park School of Des Moines, Ia., is the first school of that city to install playground apparatus in its yard. The money for the purchase of this apparatus was earned by the pupils. They gave entertainments, sold papers, ran errands, etc. The only outside assistance was from the School Board, which paid for the setting of the apparatus.

"The playground movement starts with the child and develops the good with him. The reform movement starts with the adult and tries to eliminate the bad that is in him. The first requires a directed playground. The latter requires reformatories, penitentiaries and jails." This is the opening statement of the report just issued by the recreation committee of the Children's Aid Association of Indianapolis, of which Harry D. Tutewiler is chairman. The report shows that the total attendance on the playgrounds last summer was 50,000 or over 1,000 a day.

If the plans of the Park Commissioners are carried out, Lexington, Ky., will have in the near future five parks and playgrounds comprising about forty acres.

PLAYGROUND HAPPENINGS—

Mayor Reed, of Norfolk, Va., in his annual message, recommends that the city lease ground for a public playground.

The Federation of Women's Clubs of Ottumwa, Iowa, is planning to establish playgrounds in that city next season.

A playground association has been formed in Providence, R. I. The following are its officers: President, Judge Frederick Rueckert; First Vice-President, Rt. Rev. William N. McVickar, D.D.; Second Vice-President, Miss Ellen LeGarde; Treasurer, Mrs. Mary E. S. Root; Secretary, James Minnick.

The City Council of Minominee, Mich., has transferred to the School Board a park adjoining the high school building. This ground will be equipped and conducted as a public playground.

Sixty public school yards will be opened in Philadelphia next summer as public playgrounds. The grounds will be open from 9 A. M. to 5 P. M. and will be in charge of trained teachers employed by the Board of Education.

On February 18th Mayor Reyburn, of Philadelphia, Pa., sent an urgent message to councils asking them to pass the necessary legislation providing for a comprehensive plan for playgrounds for the children of the city. He asked for an appropriation of \$5,000 and for the appointment of a committee of five representative citizens to prepare the plans. In the communication sent to the Finance Committee the mayor said:

"It should be our constant purpose to promote in every possible way those agencies which will give to our city the best facilities to secure health, comfort, happiness and prosperity.

"One of these obligations include proper care of the children. Next to the preservation of life and property, no more binding duty devolves upon us than that of caring for them. This is being recognized as a fundamental duty of the municipalities, and many of our sister cities are taking up in a generous way the duty of providing adequate playgrounds and recreation centers for all their children. We cannot afford to take less than a commanding position in this great movement."

FORM OF BEQUEST.

I give and bequeath unto the PLAYGROUND ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA the sum of..... dollars, to be applied to the uses and purposes of the Association, and the receipt of the President and Treasurer thereof shall be a sufficient discharge to my executors for the same.

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